

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6978

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 4450

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: ENERGY ORGANIZING MEETING OF COORDINATING GROUP
FEBRUARY 25

REF: STATE 034417

1. RE PARAGRAPH 9 REFTTEL, FEBRUARY 21 ISSUE OF LE MONDE
CARRIES ARTICLE DATED LINE BRUSSELS (EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES)
REPORTING THAT U.S. HAS CALLED ORGANIZING MEETING OF
COORDINATING GROUP IN WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 25 AND 26.

2. SIMILAR ARTICLE APPEARS IN FEBRUARY 21 ISSUE OF LE
FIGARO, WHICH ADDS THAT FRANCE HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED
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("WITH A DELAY OF 48 HOURS RELATIVE TO THE OTHER

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY") AND THAT "IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING MR. JOBERT WILL NOT ACCEPT THE AMERICAN INVITATION, BUT WE DO NOT YET KNOW HOW HE WILL REFUSE IT NOR HOW HE WILL REACT." FIGARO ARTICLE SAYS THAT U.S. INVITATION "FORCES THE PACE OF EVENTS AND GETS THE JUMP ON THE MARCH 1 MEETING OF THE FRENCH AND GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE MARCH 4 MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS." IT SUGGESTS THAT U.S. PURPOSE IS TO PREVENT EC-ARAB MEETING, NOTING "IF FRANCE HAS NOT GIVEN UP ITS HOPES FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES, IT DOES NOT YET KNOW WHETHER THE SAME IS TRUE OF ITS PARTNERS, AND IT IS ON THIS POINT THAT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN WASHINGTON WILL AROUSE THE GREATEST SUSPICIONS IN PARIS, RISKING THE MOST SERIOUS CLASHES."
IRWIN

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